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**BRITON PLEADS GUILTY TO DEFRAUDING MORE THAN 15 INVESTORS
OF APPROXIMATELY \$1.75 MILLION IN BOGUS INVESTMENTS**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and PASQUALE J. D'AMURO, Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Field Office of the FBI, announced that GLYN KEATLEY, Chairman of Hilands Consulting Company, Ltd., Sheffield, England, and President of Hilbar Investments, LLC, Scottsdale, Arizona, pled guilty today in Manhattan federal court before United States District Judge JOHN F. KEENAN to defrauding more than 15 investors through various schemes.

On December 3, 2003, a two-count Information was filed in the Southern District of New York charging KEATLEY with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and wire fraud (the "Information"). According to the Information, from June 2001 through March 2002, KEATLEY and other co-conspirators induced approximately 15 investors to pay a total of approximately \$1.5

million in fees for investment vehicles that would purportedly return high rates of return but did not, in fact, exist.

According to the Information, among the claims KEATLEY made to an investor from New York who was seeking financing for the development of a museum in New York City were the following:

- KEATLEY was able to buy bank debentures and sell them an hour later for 16 to 21% profit;

- KEATLEY had access to little-known International Monetary Fund ("IMF") trading programs that would pay 800% in three banking days;

- KEATLEY would assign a barrel of gold concentrate worth \$30 million until the investor had received a \$150 million return on his investment;

- Aside from the purported IMF trading program, KEATLEY also had access to several other programs which could return a profit of at least 300% per week.

According to the Information, despite the fact that more than 15 investors paid KEATLEY and his co-conspirators a total of approximately \$1.5 million in fees for these investments, KEATLEY did not place any of the investors' funds into any investment programs.

In addition to the Information, KEATLEY also pled guilty to a one-count indictment filed in the District of Kansas in 2001 charging KEATLEY with mail fraud (the "Kansas Indictment"). According to the Kansas Indictment, KEATLEY advertised on the Internet that he could procure financing for large-scale

projects. KEATLEY required potential clients to pay him \$25,000 in "due diligence fees" which KEATLEY claimed he would use to investigate the feasibility of the projects. KEATLEY claimed the clients' "due diligence fees" would be refunded if KEATLEY was unable to secure the requested financing. According to the Kansas Indictment, between August 1998 and May 1999, KEATLEY converted approximately \$275,000 in "due diligence fees" to his own personal use and the use of others.

KEATLEY was arrested on August 11, 2003, in Detroit, Michigan and was ordered detained.

In describing the conduct underlying his pleas of guilty before Judge KEENAN this morning, KEATLEY stated, "Selfish greed overtook me."

KEATLEY, 44, lives in Lincolnshire, England.

KEATLEY is scheduled to be sentenced by Judge KEENAN on April 5, 2004. KEATLEY faces a total maximum prison sentence of 5 years on Count One of the Information, conspiracy to commit wire fraud, and 20 years on Count Two, wire fraud, as well as five years for the mail fraud Count in the Kansas Indictment. He also faces a fine of twice the gross loss to persons other than the defendant.

Mr. KELLEY praised the FBI for its efforts in this case.

Assistant United States Attorney DANIEL R. MARGOLIS is in charge of the prosecution.

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